

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-39 (deleted).

Claim 40 (currently amended): A recombinant protein comprising ~~an A chain of a ricin-like toxin~~ a ricin A chain, ~~a B chain of a ricin-like toxin~~ ricin B chain and a heterologous linker amino acid sequence, linking the A and B chains, wherein the linker sequence contains a cleavage recognition site for ~~a disease-specific protease selected from the group consisting of: a cancer associated protease, a viral protease, a fungal protease, and a parasitic protease.~~

Claims 41-44 (deleted).

Claim 45 (currently amended): The recombinant protein of claim 40 wherein the cancer-associated protease is selected from the ~~group consisting of: cathepsin B, an Epstein-Barr virus specific protease, a matrix metalloproteinase, cathepsin L, cathepsin D, urokinase type plasminogen activator, tissue type plasminogen activator, human prostate specific antigen, kallikrein, neutrophil elastase, and calpain.~~

Claims 46-48 (deleted).

Claim 49 (currently amended): The recombinant protein of claim 40 having the linker amino acid sequence according to ~~SEQ ID No. 40; SEQ ID No. 41; SEQ ID No. 42; SEQ ID No. 43; SEQ ID No. 44; SEQ ID No. 45; SEQ ID No. 46; SEQ ID No. 55; SEQ ID No. 56; SEQ ID No. 57; SEQ ID No. 58; SEQ ID No. 59; SEQ ID No. 60; SEQ ID No.~~

~~61; SEQ ID No. 62; SEQ ID No. 63; SEQ ID No. 64; SEQ ID No. 65; SEQ ID No. 66;
SEQ ID No. 67; SEQ ID No. 68; SEQ ID No. 69; SEQ ID No. 70; SEQ ID No. 71; SEQ
ID No. 72; SEQ ID No. 75; SEQ ID No. 78; SEQ ID No. 81; SEQ ID No. 84; SEQ ID No.
87; SEQ ID No. 90; SEQ ID No. 93; SEQ ID No. 96; SEQ ID No. 99; SEQ ID No. 102;
SEQ ID No. 105; SEQ ID No. 108; SEQ ID No. 111; SEQ ID No. 114; SEQ ID No. 117;
SEQ ID No. 120; SEQ ID No. 123; or SEQ ID No. 126.~~

Claim 50 (deleted).

Claim 51 (currently amended): The recombinant protein of claim ~~50~~ 40, wherein the heterologous linker contains a cleavage recognition site for matrix metalloproteinase-9.

Claims 52-54 (deleted).

Claim 55 (currently amended): A recombinant protein according to claim ~~54~~ 40 comprising a truncated A-chain of ricin A chain.

Claim 56 (deleted).

Claim 57 (currently amended) A recombinant protein according to claim ~~54~~ 40 comprising a truncated A-chain of ricin B chain.

Claim 58 (original): A pharmaceutical composition for treating cancer or a fungal, or viral, or parasitic infection in an animal comprising the recombinant protein of claim ~~40~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.